

CHAPTER 3

Current Operations





Our Nation's leaders have great confidence in their Marine Corps' ability to succeed anywhere, anytime, and in any situation. The basis for such confidence is a highly effective form of operations which is uniquely suited to the Marine Corps' statutory role as the Nation's Force-in-Readiness. Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) operating as part of a naval expeditionary force are a highly flexible, cost effective means of maintaining global U.S. presence and crisis response.

The Marine Corps stands ready to deploy the right size force, with the right set of capabilities, to get the job done rapidly and with the appropriate amount of force required. To accomplish this, MAGTF Operations rely upon scalable task organizations (e.g., Marine Expeditionary Units (Special Operations Capable) (MEU(SOC)), Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEB), and Maritime Prepositioning Forces (MPF)), building upon whatever force is first on the scene, until the capabilities necessary to accomplish the mission are available. This unique building block approach optimizes both Marine combat power and conserves scarce defense resources.



Current Operations

Throughout 1999, the Marine Corps demonstrated why MAGTF Operations are among the most versatile instruments of U.S. military power. Whether conducting humanitarian assistance operations in Turkey, Maritime Interception Operations in the Arabian Gulf, peacekeeping support in East Timor, peace enforcement in Kosovo, security for High Value Transits through the Panama Canal, Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEOs) in Africa and in Albania,

or air strikes against the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, MAGTF Operations provided decision makers with numerous, tailored, crisis response capabilities applicable across the spectrum of conflict.

No other nation possesses the politically and operationally flexible range of crisis response capabilities provided by MAGTF Operations. A prime example of this flexibility is the 26th MEU(SOC)'s recent deployment to the European Theater. In response to President Slobodan Milosevic's failure to comply with the United Nations' Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1199 and the demands of the international community, Marines from the 26th MEU(SOC) participated in air strikes against the Former Republic of Yugoslavia in support of Operation Noble Anvil. Following the air strikes, Marines from the 26th MEU(SOC) provided the initial entry force for Operation Joint Guardian, NATO's peace enforcement operation in Kosovo. Upon completion of their role in Kosovo, 26th MEU(SOC) assisted with disaster relief in Turkey in Operation Avid Response following a severe earthquake. This ability to transition between desperate operational environments on a moment's notice is unique to the MAGTF and provides the Regional CINC's an unmatched combination of deployment and employment options.



Exercises

Marine Corps participation in realistic, worldwide exercises—whether internal specific, Joint, and/or Combined—provides a significant contribution to meeting capability requirements for sustaining a relevant force in readiness.

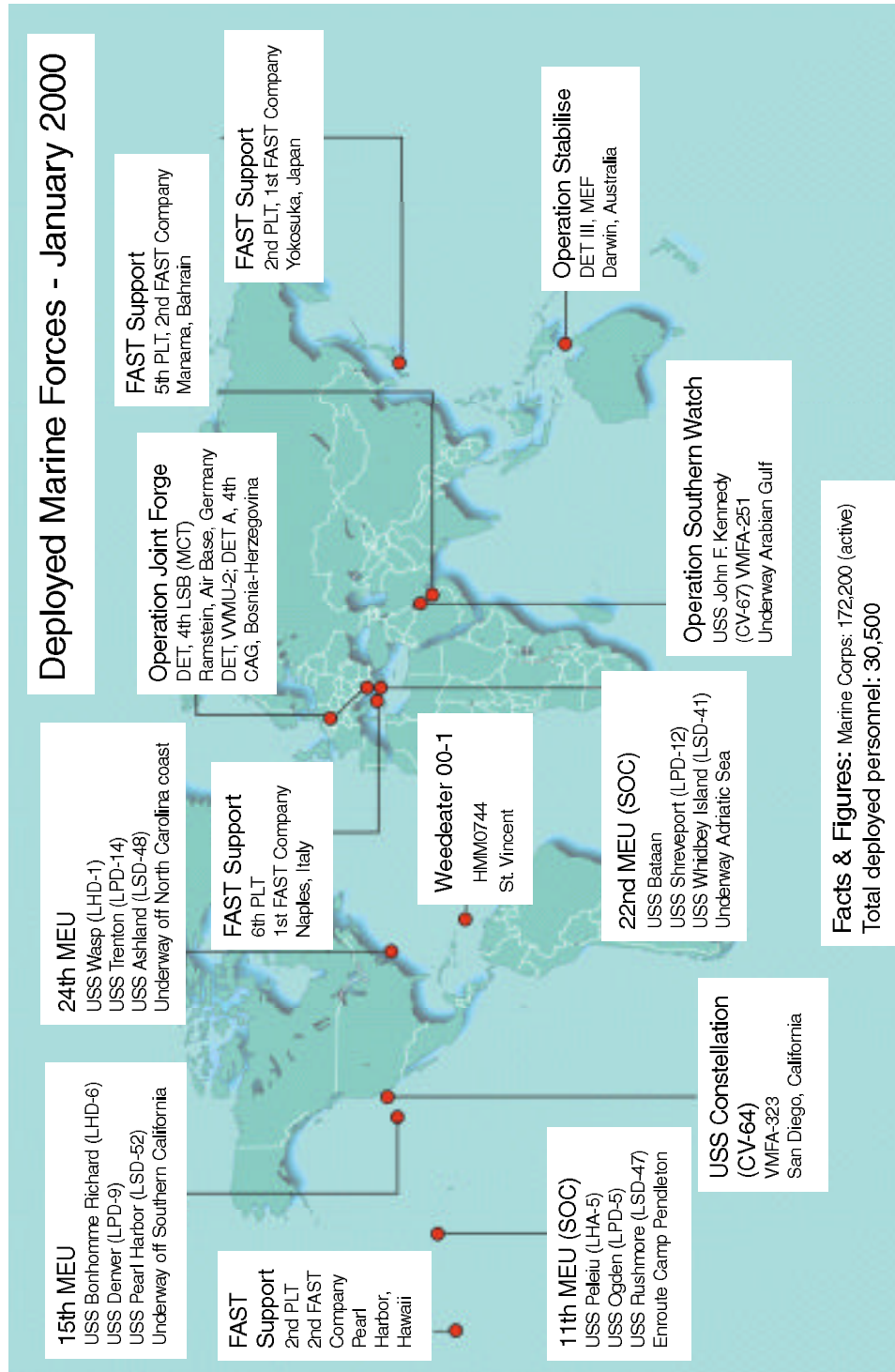
Internal Marine Corps exercises—such as Combined Arms Exercises (CAX) in Twenty-nine Palms, California; Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) courses in Bridgeport, California; Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) courses in Yuma, Arizona; and, MEU(SOC) workups—develop individual and unit proficiency/competency and test operational skills in order to provide those capabilities required to execute the full range of MAGTF Operations

Through Joint and Combined exercises—such as Ulchi Focus Lens in The Republic of Korea; Red Reef in Saudi Arabia; Bright Star in Egypt; Cobra Gold in Thailand; Cooperative Osprey in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; Battle Griffin in Norway; and UNITAS in various South American countries and West African States—the Marine Corps improves its ability to rapidly project forces globally and enhances interoperability.

During 1999, Marines participated in over two hundred internal, Joint, and Combined exercises. These exercises were categorized as live fire, field training, command post, and/or computer assisted. Marine participation levels ranged from selected detachments (from small cadres of skilled specialists to trained battle staffs) to a Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) in excess of two thousand troops. These exercises provided invaluable training in diverse locations around the world and ensured that we remained operationally ready and forward deployed.

Counterdrug Operations

During 1999, the Marine Corps continued to contribute to the Nation's counterdrug effort and participated in 40 counterdrug (CD) missions in support of Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6), Joint Interagency Task Force East (JIATF-E), and Joint Interagency Task Force West (JIATF-W). These missions were conducted along the U.S. southwest border, on federal lands, and within several domestic hot spots that have been designated as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs). Individual Marines and units are assigned to these CD missions in order to provide support to domestic Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (DLEA) in their investigation of drug trafficking and apprehension of suspected traffickers throughout the United States. Seventy-five percent of the missions were executed by Marines of Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES).



CY99 USMC Operations Matrix

Date	Location	Mission	Force
Oct 92 - Present	Southeast Asia	POW/MIA Accounting	Dets from 1st MAW and 3d FSSG
Apr 96 - present	Haiti	Security	Dets II MEF
Jul 96 - Present	Southwest Asia	Force Protection	Dets I MEF
Jan 98 - Present	South America	Counterdrug support	Det, MACG-28
Jun 98 - Present	Aviano AB, and Ramstein Germany	Peace enforcement/keeping	Dets, VMU-2 4th CAG and 2d LSB, 22d MEU(SOC)/ESSEX ARG
Jul 98 - Mar 99	Kosovo, Republic of Serbia	Diplomatic observer mission	Individual augmentees from II MEF
Aug 98 - Sep 99	Nairobi, Kenya	Security Augmentation	2d Plt 2d FASTCo Individual MSG Bn Augmentees Plt (Rein) BLT 2/1, 13th MEU(SOC)
Nov 98 - Mar 99	Honduras, El Salvador Guatemala	Disaster Relief Support	CSSD-68 CSSD-69 8th MTBn, COMMARFOR
Jan - Feb 99	Arabian Gulf	Maritime Interdiction Operations	Elements 31st MEU
O/A Feb 99 Mar - Jun 99 (Commenced Combat Operations)	Former Republic of Yugoslavia Aviano AB Italy (VMAQSqdns) MODLOC Aegean Sea (MEU)	Staging and subsequent Combat Operations ISO SACEUR Phased Air Operations	VMAQ-2, VMAQ-1(-) VMAQ-4(-) 24TH MEU(SOC)/Nassau ARG 26th MEU(SOC)/Kearsarge ARG
May - Jun 99	Naples, Italy	Force Protection	MCSF Co Naples, Italy
May - Jul 99	Taszar, Hungary	Combat Air Operations	MAG-31 FWD (VMFA(AW) 332 and 533
Mar - Jul 99	Skopje, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia	AT/FP Security Support to American Embassy	3d Plt, 1st FASTCo 6th Flt LNO 3d Plt, 2d FASTCo
Apr - Jul 99	Tirana, Albania Fier, Albania/(Camp Hope), 15km east of Fier (Camp Eagle)	Refugee Assistance and Security Operations	Individual Augments from II MEF 26th MEU(SOC)/ Kearsarge ARG
Jun - Jul 99	Kosovo - General vicinity of Gnjilane	Peacekeeping Enabling Force Operations	26th MEU(SOC)/USS Kearsarge ARG
May - Sep 99	Incirlik, Turkey	NFZ enforcement over Northern Iraq	-Det, VMGR-234-Det, VMGR-452 -Det, VMGR-352
Aug - Sep 99	Izmit, Turkey	Humanitarian Assistance	26th MEU(SOC)/ Kearsarge ARG
Sep 99 - Present	East Timor, Indonesia	Peacekeeping	Elements from III MEF and MARFOR - PAC
Ongoing (as required)	Several U.S. States	Domestic Support	I MEF AND II MEF
Apr 99	Washington, DC	Domestic Support	MCB Quantico, VA and II MEF
Sep - Oct 99	Eastern U.S.	Domestic Support	MFLAND II MEF
Sep - Dec 99	U.S. and territories	Domestic Support	USMC

Description of Action

FULLACCOUNTING - Support of national efforts to account for POWs/MIAs from the Vietnam War

U.S. SUPPORT GROUP - HAITI - Security, Counter Intelligence (CI) and Engineer Operations in support of U.S. Support Group - Haiti

DESERT FOCUS - Conducting CI Force Protection Operations in support of CJTF-SWA

LASER STRIKE - Counterdrug radar and communications support

JOINTFORGE - Peace enforcement/keeping operations

BALKAN CALM - Diplomatic observer mission

RESOLUTE RESPONSE - Security augmentation as a result of 7 Aug Terrorist Bomb Attacks

OPERATION STRONG SUPPORT - HURRICANE MITCH DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS - Marines conduct disaster relief operations in Central America to mitigate near-term human suffering and accelerate long-term regional recovery

Ships of the ARG MEU conducted boarding and searches of ships in Gulf

OPERATION NOBLE ANVIL/ALLIED FORCE - Deployed to support US/NATO military actions as a result of failed negotiations between Serbian and Kosovar leaders.
VMAQ Sqdns providing airborne E/W operations ISO of strike packages

24th MEU(SOC) provided stand by TRAPsupport and flew combat sorties (BAI/CAS) Relieved on station by 26th MEU who assumed BAI and TRAPresponsibilities

Provided fixed site security

Flew combat sorties providing strike mission support

IRT violent demonstration around the American Embassy Skopje (no MSG Det assigned) C6F deployed FASTfrom Naples to Skopje

OPERATION SHINING HOPE - HAreief planning no formal tasking of direct support
26th MEU(SOC) deployed forces ashore to provide Security for Camp Hope and provided security support for Camp Eagle. Elements of BLT 3/8 provided security for CTF 64 helo's embarked aboard USS Inchon.

OPERATION JOINTGUARDIAN - Conduct Initial Entry Force tasks and support for NATO forces in Kosovo. Tasks included: providing initial command and control, conducting initial reconnaissance operations, and providing security for follow-on forces until relieved.
26th MEU(SOC) Marines involved in shooting incidents at various Marine checkpoints and operating areas. No Marine casualties were suffered.

OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH
VMGR detachments providing aerial refueling support for CSAR helicopter

OPERATION AVID RESPONSE - In coordination with Office of Defense Coordination (ODC), Task Force Avid Response provided disaster relief near Izmit/Golcuk Turkey after a severe earthquake

OPERATION STABILISE - UN directed, Australian led, U.S. supported peacekeeping mission in East Timor, Indonesia, to assist Australia's contingency planning efforts for East Timor and to provide specific planning support for unique U.S. capabilities in support of potential deployment of international/UN peacekeeping force to East Timor

Wildfire suppression

50th NATO Summit security

Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief Operations - Hurricane Floyd

Y2K Consequence Management Naples to Skopje